

# St. Mark's Episcopal Church

412 Cedar Street, P.O. Box 307  
Paw Paw, MI 49079  
269-657-3762

August/September Services Sunday at 9:30 am  
All are welcome to attend



Greetings!



(From Wikipedia) *In terms of interpersonal attraction, four forms of love have traditionally been distinguished, based on ancient Greek precedent: the love of kinship or familiarity (in Greek, storge), the love of friendship (philia), the love of sexual and/or romantic desire (eros), and self-emptying or divine love (agape).*

As you might guess, when Jesus speaks of love, he means this last definition. In Scripture, love is wanting the best for the other no matter the cost to the lover. Jesus said that all the commandments come down to loving God with all your heart, mind and soul and loving your neighbor as Jesus loves us. Jesus' love is a self-sacrificing love. Jesus' love sees us as we are and loves us as we are. Jesus' love does not save us from the consequences of our actions, but does stand with us through everything.



Love begins with God who created everything and loved all creation. That love was expressed by God in creating clothing for the disobedient Adam and Eve. God did not protect them from the consequences of their actions, but also did not abandon them.

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## UNSUNG HEROES DEPARTMENT

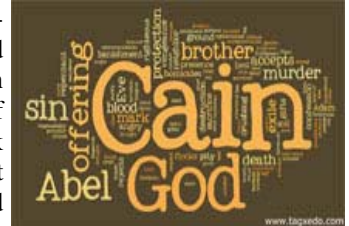
I'm sure everyone's noticed how nice the lawn around the church looks every Sunday. Charlie Copeland drives a considerable distance each week to keep it looking that way. He works alone and out of sight of those who would applaud his efforts. He is truly an unsung hero of St. Marks. Tell Charlie "thanks" next time you see him.

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### Notice:

The Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Western Michigan is on the web! Our information can be found by going to [edwm.org](http://edwm.org) and clicking **Leadership Boards**, then "**Episcopal Church Women.**" Our page includes a photo gallery from our June 1st meeting. Also, *save the date* of May 31, 2014 for our next annual meeting at St. Paul's in Muskegon. If you have questions, contact Char Camfield, ECW President, at [charcamco@sbcglobal.net](mailto:charcamco@sbcglobal.net).

When Cain murdered his brother, Abel, God again did not protect Cain from the consequences of banishment, but did mark Cain as God's own so that Cain would be protected from others. Time and again we see examples of God allowing us to feel the consequences of our decisions and actions, but never abandoning us. God's love is always present.



No one would ever accuse Jesus of being "nice." When the woman was caught in adultery and brought before Jesus, he did not condemn her, but after everyone was gone, told her to go and sin no more. Jesus was willing to say the hard things to those he loved whether it was telling Peter that he would deny Jesus three times or telling the disciples that they would die similar deaths to Jesus.

This love we are called to is a decision. Love is not that wonderfully soft squishy comfortable feeling we have for puppies and kittens and sometimes for others. Love is obeying God and wanting the best for others even at the expense of ourselves. Love is deciding to staying in relationship with another and working through the hard stuff. Love is making yourself vulnerable to being hurt and staying in relationship even when we are inevitably hurt.



**CHARLIE COPELAND, UNSUNG HERO**

## THE MAYONNAISE JAR

Submitted by Joan Copeland

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar... and the coffee...

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes."

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things-your God, family, your children, your health, your friends, and your favorite passions-things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, and

your car. The sand is everything else-the small stuff." "If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life.

If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. Play another 18. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and asked, "what does the coffee represent? .

The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's



always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend."



Being lifelong Episcopalians, we are always on the lookout for the Episcopal church in the towns we visit. Last December, during our family trip to St. Thomas, we spotted the familiar "welcome" sign. Along with my mother (another Episcopal lifer), we ascended the long, narrow, not-so- safe, neighborhood street to find the building. We were rewarded with a very picturesque building, but unfortunately it was locked up. Figuring it was best not to be arrested for attempted break-in, we settled for pictures of the outside! *Submitted by Lise Black and Phil Naylor*







## HANDICAP PROJECT UPDATE

For those of you who weren't at the church service last week, here's a recap of the project to make St. Mark's handicap accessible



The biggest obstacles to getting into the church are the seven steps leading from the narthex to the sanctuary. The quickest and least expensive solution to that is a lift chair as shown in the figure at left. Those who need a walker or wheel chair could ride the chair up the stairs and pick up their walker or wheel chair at the top.

Same applies to going downstairs to the gathering area, as shown at the right. The two stair lifts would operate independently of one another. Others could assist in bringing wheel chair or walker up or down the stairs.



The current men's room on the lower level could be converted into a unisex, handicap accessible rest room with minimal modifications inside.

Wheel chair access would be accomplished by creating an opening in the existing wall between the rest room and gathering area as shown at right. This opening would allow a wheel chair ramp leading into the restroom.



Most of you know there's a back entrance to the church. Three steps take you to the back door, then three additional steps inside take you to the sanctuary level.

The plan here is to remove the last window and enlarge the opening to accommodate a door. This door would open into the sanctuary level. The original door and steps would be removed, as shown here.

A wheel chair negotiable ramp would then be constructed to provide access from the parking lot to the new door.

A protrusion into the sanctuary, as shown at right, would allow easy wheel chair maneuvering from the new door into the sanctuary.

We will apply to the Whittemore foundation for a grant to accomplish the modifications shown here. We should know by the end of October if our grant request is approved.

